

14. This Morning early the Men began to make up the Packs they were to carry on their Shoulders into the Dismal. They were victual'd for 8 Days, which was judg'd sufficient for the Service. Those Provisions with the Blankets & other Necessaries loaded the Men with a Burthen of 50 or 60<sup>lb</sup> for Each. Orion helpt most of all to make these Loads so heavy, by taking his Bed, and several changes of Raiment, not forgetting a Suit for Sundays along with him. This was a little unmercifull, which with his peevish Temper made him no Favorite. We fixt them out about ten in the Morning, & then Meanwell, Puzzlecause, & I went along with them, resolving to enter them fairly into this dreadful Swamp, which no body before ever had either the Courage or Curiosity to pass. But Firebrand & Shoebrush chose rather to toast their Noses over a good Fire, & Spare their dear Persons. After a March of 2 Miles thro' very bad way, the Men sweating under their Burthens, we arriv'd at the Edge of the Dismal, where the Surveyors had left off the Night before. Here Steddy thought proper to encourage the Men by a short harangue to this effect. "Gentlemen, "we are at last arriv'd at this dreadfull place, which til now has "been thought unpassable. Tho' I make no doubt but you will "convince every Body, that there is no difficulty which may not "be conquer'd by Spirit & constancy. You have hitherto behaved "with so much Vigour, that the most I can desire of you, is to "persevere unto the End; I protest to You the only reason we don't "Share in Your Fatigue, is, the fear of adding to Your Burthens, "(which are but too heavy already,) while we are Sure we can "add nothing to your Resolution. I shall say no more, but only "pray the Almighty to prosper your Undertaking, & grant we may "meet on the other Side in perfect Health & Safety." The Men took this Speech very kindly, and answer'd it in the most cheerful manner, with 3 Huzzas. Immediately we enter'd the